

BEST AVAILABLE COPY
12

CLAIMS

1. An integrally formed clamp for use as a clothes peg including:
an opposed pair of first and second elongate substantially rigid members, the first elongate member
5 having a first handle portion and a first clamping portion and the second elongate member having a
second handle portion and a second clamping portion;
a flexible joint intermediate the lengths of the first and second elongate members configured to
urge the first and second clamping portions into a clamping position when said clamp is in a
passive state; and
10 a locking device,
wherein the locking device has a first end hinged to the first handle portion and movable about the
hinge and a second free end adapted to releasably cooperate with the second handle portion
whereby to lock the first and second handle portions in spaced relationship preventing the first and
second handle portions from being moved towards one another when said clamp is in a locked
15 position.
2. A clamp according to claim 1 for keeping members of a pair of garments together during
laundry processing, wherein:
in the passive state the first and second clamping portions are urged into a clamping position and
the first and second handle portions are held in spaced relationship by the flexible joint;
20 upon compression of the first and second handle portions, the first and second clamping portions
are forced apart such that the first and second clamping portions are adapted to receive the pair of
garments and to clamp together the garments when the first and second handle portions are
released; and
the clamping portions secure the garments against dislodgment from the clamp during processing.

25

ART 34 AMDT

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

13

3. A clamp according to claim 1 or 2, wherein a hook or clip for engaging with a clothes line or rod is provided on either or both of the first and second handle portions.
4. A clamp according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the locking device includes a ramp to guide the second handle portion into cooperative engagement with the locking device.
5. A clamp according to claim 4, wherein the ramp is a cam surface.
6. A clamp according to claim 4 or 5, wherein the locking device includes an inclined surface tapering from the ramp towards the hinge and the first arm includes a complementary support surface on which the inclined surface rests when the locking device is engaged to the second handle portion.
7. A clamp according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the locking device includes a shoulder and adjacent recess, and a protrusion of the second handle portion is adapted to ride over the shoulder and lockably rest in the recess, the protrusion held in the recess by the flexing force of the first and second arms.
8. A clamp according to any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein the second handle portion includes a shoulder and adjacent recess, and a protrusion of the locking device is adapted to ride over the shoulder and lockably rest in the recess, the protrusion held in the recess by the flexing, compressive force of the first and second arms.
9. A clamp according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the second handle portion includes a guiding, longitudinally aligned slot configured to cooperate with a knob extending proud from the locking device.
10. A clamp according to any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein the locking device includes a longitudinally aligned slot configured to cooperate with a guiding knob extending proud from the second handle portion.
11. A clamp according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the terminal end of the second handle portion includes a platform oriented transverse to the longitudinal axis

ART 34 AMDT

AMENDED SHEET
IDEA/ALL

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

14

thereof and the locking device includes a complementary flat surface adapted to abut the platform when the locking device and the second handle portion are cooperatively engaged.

12. A clamp according to claim 11 when dependent on claim 1, wherein the knob extends from, and in a direction normal to, the platform.

5 13. A clamp according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the hinge comprises a portion of material extending between the locking device and the first handle portion, the hinge configured to be flexible without failing when subjected to continuous use.

14. A clamp according to claim 11, wherein the hinge is a thin flat portion of material.

15. A clamp according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the first and second
10 elongate members each include an elongate reinforcing ridge which tapers towards the respective ends of the elongate member.

16. A clamp according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the first and second clamping portions include gripping features.

17. A clamp according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the gripping features
15 include opposed rows of teeth on each of the inner facing surfaces of the first and second clamping portions.

18. A clamp according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the gripping features of each of the first and second clamping portions are adapted to complementarily dove tail.

19. A clamp according to any one of claims 2 to 18, further including indicia on one or
20 more of the clamp's components to indicate ownership or the nature of the garments to which the clamp is attached.